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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

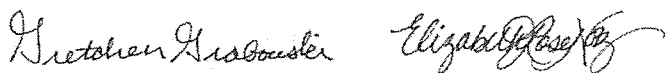
Editors' Introduction

This eighth volume of *Res Publica* illustrates the strength and quality not only of the political science program at Illinois Wesleyan University, but also of its students and their academic endeavors. College students of all years and majors are invited to submit their political science research for inclusion in the journal. The Editors and Assistant Editors select the best papers to be included. *Res Publica* is the only peer-reviewed undergraduate journal in political science in the nation, a status that further underscores the quality of the program. The journal is sponsored by the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society while the political science faculty advises the editorial staff.

The papers that comprise this edition continue *Res Publica's* tradition of publishing original and exemplary student research papers in all sub-fields of political science. This year's volume addresses a variety of topics in the discipline. Cameo Kaisler and Jen Birkholtz analyze the role women play in electoral politics while Elizabeth Notz examines the politics of affirmative action and their consequences. In comparative politics, Gretchen Grabowski takes an economic approach to evaluating Latin American social and political stability as James Melton discusses approaches to measuring individual and group political culture. We are also happy to include the winning submission from our annual high school essay contest; Adnan Javed considers what he believes to be the most serious issue facing state government and how he would solve it. This year's cover, a photograph of the Illinois State Capitol Building, coincide with the essay topic.

We would like to thank the political science faculty for their assistance in the production of the work in this journal. We owe a special mention to William Munro and Greg Shaw, who shepherded these papers through the Senior Seminars in Comparative and American Politics, respectively. Frank Boyd, Tari Renner, and James Simeone also offered invaluable advice on each paper.

We hope you are pleased with this year's edition.

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Gretchen Grabowski' and the signature on the right is 'Elizabeth Notz'.

Gretchen Grabowski and Elizabeth Notz
The Editors